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09/220,962	12/28/1998	BRIAN CRUICKSHANK	81749-2	5390

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EXAMINER

SING, SIMON P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2645

DATE MAILED: 08/28/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/220,962

Applicant(s)

CRUICKSHANK ET AL.

Examiner

Simon Sing

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 June 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-77 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14, 16-23, 31-46, 48, 50-67 and 71-73 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 15, 24-30, 47, 49, 68-70 and 74-77 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1, 3-14, 16-23, 31, 32, 35-43, 48, 50-56, 58-67, 71 and 73 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greco US Patent 5,568,540 in view of Brunson et al. US Patent 6,038,296.

1.1 Regarding claim 1, Greco discloses a voice mail screening method and system in figures 1 and 2. Call processor 38, acting as a server, generates an information signal (message list) associated with the source of a stored message and transmits said information signal to a communications device of an addressee, or client (subscriber) computer 14 (column 2, lines 19-24) for display as shown in the second and the fifth columns in figure 2 (column 4, lines 45-51 and 57-59). Greco discloses a REPLY button, which relates the information signal to the source of a stored message. When the REPLY button is selected, it will automatically addresses to the source (sender) of a highlighted message (column 5, lines 16-19). Greco fails to teach that the REPLY button relates the stored message to at least one graphical image associated with the source.

However, Brunson discloses an Internet/Intranet user interface to a multi-media messaging system wherein a subscriber's database includes names, telephone number, personal greeting, personal IDs and personal photographs, etc. The subscriber also has a personal home page with the subscriber's graphical image and personal greeting (Figure 7, column 5, lines 29-40). When a user requests sending a message to the subscriber, the subscriber's home page is automatically sent to the user's computer screen (column 4, lines 34-41; column 5, lines 42-45, 55-59; column 6, lines 7-9, 24-28). Brunson further teaches that the user's return address is sent with the message (column 5, lines 64-67; column 6, lines 7-11).

Again, Brunson teaches sending a subscriber's (recipient) home page to a user (sender) before the user composes his message, and Greco teaches generating an information signal (message list) and a REPLY function, which automatically addresses to a user, or sender (in this case, the sender becomes the recipient of a reply message).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Greco's method with the teaching of Brunson, so that a source's return address would have been included in the message list, and when a subscriber highlighted a message in a message list and clicked on the REPLY button, the subscriber would have been automatically linked to the sender's home page, and the sender's graphical image would have appeared on the subscriber's computer screen. Because such a modification would have enabled a subscriber to learn more about the sender (or source) of a message in case the sender's name was unfamiliar to the recipient.

1.2 Regarding claim 3, as discussed in claim 1, the Greco's reference, modified by Brunson, teaches generating an information signal relating a stored message to a sender's return address, which is automatically linked to the sender's web home page with at least one graphical image associated with said sender (source).

1.3 Regarding claim 4, a web home page inherently has a network address.

1.4 Regarding claim 5, as discussed in claim 1, the Greco's reference, modified by Brunson, teaches transmitting a message list from a server to a subscriber's computer (column 3, lines 26-31).

1.5 Regarding claim 6, as discussed in claim 1, the Greco's reference, modified by Brunson, teaches receiving notification that a new messages has been received (Figure 2; column 2, lines 19-24).

1.6 Regarding claim 7, as discussed in claim 1, the Greco's reference, modified by Brunson, teaches storing the message list for subsequent transmitting to a subscriber's computer (Figure 2; column 2, lines 19-24).

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1.7 Regarding claim 8, as discussed in claim 1, the Greco's reference, modified by Brunson, teaches generating the message list when a new message is received and stored (figure 2; column 2, lines 19-24).

1.8 Regarding claim 9, as discussed in claim 1, the Greco's reference, modified by Brunson, teaches determining the source of a message (Figure 2; column 4, lines 45-51).

1.9 Regarding claim 10, as discussed in claim 9, the Greco's reference, modified by Brunson, teaches determining the source of a message including steps of determining a calling party associated with the store message (Figure 2; column 4, lines 45-51).

1.10 Regarding claim 11, as discussed in claim 9, the Greco's reference, modified by Brunson, teaches determining the source of a message including steps of determining a caller line identification information associated with the store message (Figure 2; column 4, lines 45-51).

1.11 Regarding claim 12, as discussed in claim 9, the Greco's reference, modified by Brunson, teaches requesting, from the source networked computer, a return address, which is linked to his home page with the at least one graphical image.

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1.12 Regarding claim 13, as discussed in claim 12, the Greco's reference, modified by Brunson, teaches receiving the source information from the source's networked computer, and producing the information signal in said generating step using the source information.

1.13 Regarding claim 14, as discussed in claim 13, the Greco's reference, modified by Brunson, teaches receiving the source information from the source's networked computer, and storing the source information in a message list.

1.14 Regarding claim 16, as discussed in claim 1, the Greco's reference, modified by Brunson, teaches associating the at least one graphical image with a subscriber of messaging system.

1.15 Regarding claims 17-20, as discussed in claim 1, the Greco reference, modified by Brunson, is configured to identify and display media types of stored messages, such as e-mail messages and fax messages (column 2, lines 18-23) and generates an icon representing the media type in an information signal (figure 2; column 4, lines 57-59).

1.16 Regarding claim 21, the Greco reference, modified by Brunson, Greco further discloses an OPEN command, which plays a voice message or display a fax or e-mail message (Figure 2; column 5, lines 6-8).

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1.17 Regarding claim 22, the Greco reference, modified by Brunson, inherently teaches transmitting the message list to the subscriber when the subscriber logs into the message center (requesting notification).

1.18 Regarding claim 23, as discussed in claim 1, the Greco's reference, modified by Brunson, teaches sending the subscriber's (addressee) home page, with a graphical image of the subscriber, to a user (sender or source) before the user composes his message.

1.19 Regarding claim 31, as discussed in claim 1, the Greco's reference, modified by Brunson, teaches including the name of a caller (or sender) in the information signal (message list).

1.20 Regarding claim 32, as discussed in claim 1, the Greco's reference, modified by Brunson, teaches that a subscriber may create his custom web home page (Brunson, column 5, lines 36-40), indicating that a subscriber pre-selects one of his photos in the database to be displayed.

1.21 Regarding claim 34, Greco discloses a voice mail screening method and system in figures 1 and 2. Call processor 38, acting as a server [generator], generates an information signal (message list) associated with the source of a stored message and [as a transmitter] transmits said information signal to a communications device of an

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addressee, or client (subscriber) computer 14 (column 2, lines 19-24) for display as shown in the second and the fifth columns in figure 2 (column 4, lines 45-51 and 57-59). Greco discloses a REPLY button, which relates the information signal to the source of a stored message. When the REPLY button is selected, it will automatically addresses to the source (sender) of a highlighted message (column 5, lines 16-19). Greco fails to teach that the REPLY button relates the stored message to at least one graphical image associated with the source.

However, Brunson discloses an Internet/Intranet user interface to a multi-media messaging system wherein a subscriber's database includes names, telephone number, personal greeting, personal IDs, personal photographs, etc. The subscriber also has a personal home page with the subscriber's graphical image and personal greeting (Figure 7, column 5, lines 29-40). When a user requests sending a message to the subscriber, the subscriber's home page is automatically sent to the user's computer screen (column 4, lines 34-41; column 5, lines 42-45, 55-59; column 6, lines 7-9, 24-28). Bronson further teaches that the user's return address is sent with the message (column 5, lines 64-67; column 6, lines 7-11).

Again, Brunson teaches sending a subscriber's (recipient) home page to a user (sender) before the user composes his message, and Greco teaches generating an information signal (message list) and a REPLY function, which automatically addresses to a user, or sender (in this case, the sender becomes the recipient of a reply message).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Greco's system with the teaching of

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Brunson, so that a source's return address would have been included in the message list, and when a subscriber highlighted a message in a message list and clicked on the REPLY button, the subscriber would have been automatically linked to the sender's home page, and the sender's graphical image would have appeared on the subscriber's computer screen. Because such a modification would have enabled a subscriber to learn more about the sender (or source) of a message in case the sender's name was unfamiliar to the recipient.

1.22 Regarding claim 35, the Greco's reference, modified by Brunson, teaches that the call server (which inherently has a processor) is programmed to (i) identify a network location (the sender's return address that is automatically linked to his home page); and (ii) generate a representation including the return address within the information signal.

1.23 Regarding claim 36, the Greco's reference, modified by Brunson, teaches that the call server includes a message list generator for producing the information signal.

1.24 Regarding claim 37, the Greco's reference, modified by Brunson, teaches that the call server is programmed to initiate storage of least a portion of the information within the information signal in a network resource (the call server).

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1.25 Regarding claim 38, the Greco's reference, modified by Brunson, teaches that the call server is operative to communicate with a sender's home page.

1.26 Regarding claim 39, the Greco's reference, modified by Brunson, teaches that the call server is also a transmitter for transmitting the information signal to the subscriber (recipient).

1.27 Regarding claims 40-41, the Greco's reference, modified by Brunson, teaches that the call server is also a receiver for receiving a request for a pending graphical notification from the addressee when the addressee logs into the messaging system.

1.28 Regarding claim 42, the Greco's reference, modified by Brunson, teaches that the call server is programmed to transmit the pending graphical notification to the addressee's computer in the form of a message list.

1.29 Regarding claim 43, the Greco's reference, modified by Brunson, teaches that the call server is programmed to process a request for a pending graphical notification from the addressee when the addressee logs into the messaging system.

1.30 Regarding claim 48, the Greco's reference, modified by Brunson, teaches that the call server is programmed to (i) identify a media type of the stored message (column

2, lines 18-23), and (ii) include a digital image associated with the media type in the information (figure 2, and column 4, lines 57-59).

1.31 Regarding claim 50, the Greco reference, modified by Brunson, teaches merging a message list after a new message has been received (column 2, lines 19-24). The control system in the call processor 38 inherently has received a notification (such as end of message) that a message has been recorded before generating an information signal associated with the source of said message.

1.32 Regarding claims 51 and 52, the Greco's reference, modified by Brunson, Greco further teaches that the call server is programmed to communicate with the subscriber (client) computer [communication device] via network connection (column 3, lines 26-31).

1.33 Regarding claims 53 and 54, the Greco's reference, modified by Brunson, teaches that the subscriber's computer (which has a processor) is programmed to receive and display the at least one graphical image, the sender's home page, from the network computer.

1.34 Regarding claim 55, the Greco's reference, modified by Brunson, Greco further teaches that the subscriber's computer is programmed to: (i) retrieve from the information signal a sender's return address linked to the sender's web home page; and

(ii) retrieve from a network device (the sender's home page server) at least one graphical image for display.

1.35 Regarding claim 56, Greco discloses a voice mail screening method and system in figures 1 and 2. Call processor 38, acting as a server, inherently has a computer readable medium (column 3, lines 32-40), including codes for (a) generating an information signal (message list) associated with the source of a stored message and (b) transmitting said information signal to a communications device of an addressee, or client (subscriber) computer 14 (column 2, lines 19-24) for display as shown in the second and the fifth columns in figure 2 (column 4, lines 45-51 and 57-59). Greco's computer readable codes also include a REPLY function, which relates the information signal to the source of a stored message. When the REPLY function is selected, it will automatically addresses to the source (sender) of a highlighted message (column 5, lines 16-19). Greco fails to teach that the REPLY function relates the stored message to at least one graphical image associated with the source.

However, Brunson discloses an Internet/Intranet user interface to a multi-media messaging system wherein a subscriber's database includes names, telephone number, personal greeting, personal IDs, personal photographs, etc. The Brunson's system includes a server 106, which has a computer readable medium including codes for generating a subscriber's personal home page with the subscriber's graphical image and personal greeting (Figure 7, column 5, lines 29-40). When a user requests sending a message to the subscriber, the subscriber's home page is sent to the user's computer

screen (column 4, lines 34-41; column 5, lines 42-45, 55-59; column 6, lines 7-9, 24-28).

Bronson further teaches that the user's return address is sent with the message (column 5, lines 64-67; column 6, lines 7-11).

Again, Brunson's system has a computer readable medium including codes for sending a subscriber's (recipient) home page to a user (sender) before the user composes his message. The Greco's system has a computer readable medium including codes for generating an information signal (message list) and a REPLY function, which automatically addresses to a user or sender (in this case, the sender becomes the recipient of a reply message).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Greco's computer readable codes with the teaching of Brunson, so that a source's return address would have been included in the message list, and when a subscriber highlighted a message in a message list and clicked on the REPLY function, the subscriber would have been automatically linked to the sender's home page, and the sender's graphical image would have appeared on the subscriber's computer screen. Because such a modification would have enabled a subscriber to learn more about the sender (or source) of a message in case the sender's name was unfamiliar to the recipient.

1.36 Regarding claim 58, the Greco reference, modified by Brunson, has computer readable codes for directing the call server 38 [network computer] to (i) identify a network location (a sender's return address which is automatically linked to the sender's

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home page) where the at least one graphical image can be accessed by the addressee; and (ii) generate a representation of said network location in the information signal.

1.37 Regarding claim 59, the Greco reference, modified by Brunson, has computer readable codes for directing the call server 38 [network computer] to (i) retrieve a network address (a sender's return address which is automatically linked to the sender's home page) identifying a network location (sender's hoe page) where the at least one graphical image can be accessed by the addressee; and (ii) provide the network address in the information signal.

1.38 Regarding claim 60, the Greco reference, modified by Brunson, has computer readable codes for directing the call server 38 [network computer] to transmit the information signal to a network resource (client computer 14) associated with the addressee (column 3, lines 22-31).

1.39 Regarding claim 61, the Greco reference, modified by Brunson, has computer readable codes for directing the call server 38 [network computer] to initiate storage of at least a portion of the information signal for subsequent retrieval and transmission to the client computer 14 (column 2, lines 19-24).

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1.40 Regarding claim 62, the Greco reference, modified by Brunson, has computer readable codes for directing the call server 38 [network computer] to determine the source of the stored message (column 4, lines 45-51).

1.41 Regarding claim 63, the Greco reference, modified by Brunson, has computer readable codes for directing the call server 38 [network computer] to determine a calling party associated with the stored message (column 2, lines 19-24).

1.42 Regarding claim 64, the Greco reference, modified by Brunson, has computer readable codes for directing the call server 38 [network computer] to determine a caller line associated with the stored message (column 2, lines 19-24).

1.43 Regarding claim 65, the Greco reference, modified by Brunson, has computer readable codes for directing the call server 38 [network computer] to (i) identify a media type of a stored message; and (ii) produce a representation of a graphical image associated with the media type in the information signal (figure 2; column 4, lines 57-59).

1.44 Regarding claim 66, the Greco reference, modified by Brunson, has computer readable codes for directing the call server 38 [network computer] to transmit the stored message to the client computer 14 in response to a request for the stored message from the addressee (figure 2; column 5, lines 1-8).

1.45 Regarding claim 67, the Greco reference, modified by Brunson, has computer readable codes for directing the call server 38 [network computer] to transmit the information signal to the client computer 14 in response to a request for pending notification from the addressee (figure 2; column 3, lines 26-31).

1.46 Regarding claim 71, the Greco reference, modified by Brunson, has computer readable codes for directing the call server 38 [network computer] to relate the stored message to a pre-selected graphical image (sender's home page) associated with the source and pr-selected by the source (Brunson, column 5, lines 36-40).

1.47 Regarding claim 73, Greco discloses a voice mail screening method and system in figures 1 and 2. Call processor 38, acting as a server, generates an information signal (message list) associated with the source of a stored message and transmits said information signal to a communications device of an addressee, or client (subscriber) computer 14 (column 2, lines 19-24) for display as shown in the second and the fifth columns in figure 2 (column 4, lines 45-51 and 57-59). Greco discloses a REPLY button, which relates the information signal to the source of a stored message. When the REPLY button is selected, it will automatically addresses to the source (sender) of a highlighted message (column 5, lines 16-19). Greco fails to teach that the REPLY button relates the stored message to at least one graphical image and a digital

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representation of a sound waveform associated with the source associated with the source.

However, Brunson discloses an Internet/Intranet user interface to a multi-media messaging system wherein a subscriber's database includes names, telephone number, personal greeting, personal IDs, personal photographs, etc. The subscriber also has a personal home page with the subscriber's graphical image and digital representation of a sound waveform, or personal greeting (Figure 7, column 5, lines 29-40). When a user requests sending a message to the subscriber, the subscriber's home page is automatically sent to the user's computer screen (column 4, lines 34-41; column 5, lines 42-45, 55-59; column 6, lines 7-9, 24-28). Brunson further teaches that the user's return address is sent with the message (column 5, lines 64-67; column 6, lines 7-11).

Again, Brunson teaches sending a subscriber's (recipient) home page, with a graphical image and a digital representation of a sound waveform, or greeting, is sent to a user (sender) before the user composes his message, and Greco teaches generating an information signal (message list) and a REPLY function, which automatically addresses to a user, or sender (in this case, the sender becomes the recipient of a reply message).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Greco's method with the teaching of Brunson, so that a source's return address would have been included in the message list, and when a subscriber highlighted a message in a message list and clicked on the

REPLY button, the subscriber would have been automatically linked to the sender's home page, and the sender's graphical image and a link to the digital representation of a sound waveform (greeting) would have been sent to the subscriber's computer screen,. Because such a modification would have enabled a subscriber to learn more about the sender (or source) of a message in case the sender's name was unfamiliar to the recipient.

2. Claims 1, 2, 34, 44-46, 56 and 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bobo II US Patent 5,675,507 in view of Witek et al. US Patent 5,461,488.

2.1 Regarding claims 1 and 34, Bobo discloses a message storage and delivery system in figure 1. Bobo's system generates an information signal relating a stored message to at least one graphical image (cover page); and transmitting the information signal to a communication device (user computer 32) associated with an addressee of the stored message (column 7, lines 61-67; column 9, lines 2-4). Bobo fails to teach that the graphical image (cover page) is associated with the source.

However, it is well known in the art that a cover page contains the sender and the recipient's names, and Witek teaches that a cover page contains a sender's name and his company logo (column 3, lines 3-16).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Bobo's system with the teaching of Witek, so that a cover page would have been contained the sender's name and company logo, because such a modification would have clarified the teaching of Bobo, and would have enabled a subscriber to identity the source of a message.

2.2 Regarding claim 2, as discussed in claim 1, the Bobo's reference, modified by Witek, teaches generating a representation of said at least one graphical image (cover page) in the information signal.

2.3 Regarding claim 44, as discussed in claim 1, the Bobo's reference, modified by Witek, inherently includes a processor programmed to process a representation of the at least one graphical image (cover page) for inclusion in the information signal (column 7, lines 2-8).

2.4 Regarding claim 45, the Bobo's reference, modified by Witek, wherein said processor is programmed to generate the representation of the at least one graphical image (cover page) for inclusion in the information signal (column 7, lines 2-8).

2.5 Regarding claim 46, the Bobo's reference, modified by Witek, wherein said processor programmed to retrieve the representation of the at least one graphical image

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(cover page) from its database for inclusion in the information signal (column 7, lines 2-8).

2.6 Regarding claim 56, Bobo discloses a message storage and delivery system (MSDS) in figure 1. The MSDS inherently has a computer readable medium including codes for:

(a) directing a network computer inside the MSDS to generate an information signal relating a stored message to at least one graphical image (cover page); and (b) transmitting the information signal to a communication device (user computer 32) associated with an addressee of the stored message (column 7, lines 61-67; column 9, lines 2-4). Bobo fails to teach that the graphical image (cover page) is associated with the source.

However, it is well known in the art that a cover page contains the sender and the recipient's names, and Witek teaches that a cover page contains a sender's name and his company logo (column 3, lines 3-16).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Bobo's system with the teaching of Witek, so that a cover page would have been contained the sender's name and company logo, because such a modification would have clarified the teaching of Bobo, and would have enabled a subscriber to identity the source of a message.

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2.2 Regarding claim 57, as discussed in claim 56, the Bobo's reference, modified by Witek, teaches generating a representation of said at least one graphical image (cover page) in the information signal.

3. Claims 33 and 72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greco US Patent 5,568,540 in view of Brunson et al. US Patent 6,038,296 and further in view of Dunn et al. US Patent No. 5,651,054.

The Greco reference, modified by Brunson, teaches generating an information signal relating the stored message to at least one graphical image associated with said source; and transmitting the information signal to the client (subscriber) computer 14, but fails to teach alerting the client computer that an incoming message from the source is being stored and permitting the client computer to interrupt the storage of the incoming message and connect with the source.

However, Dunn discloses a method and apparatus for monitoring a message. Dunn teaches that the client computer 14 is alerted of an incoming message is being stored (figure 5, reference numeral 161), and the subscriber may click on the TAKE CALL button to interrupt and be connected to the caller (column 6, lines 20-24).

Since the Dunn system is similar to Greco, therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the Greco's reference, which was modified by Brunson with the teaching of Dunn, so that a message status would have been included in the message list and a TAKE CALL

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function would have been added, because such a modification would have enabled a subscriber to learn the status of a message and to take the call if he or she so desired.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 15, 24-30, 47, 49, 50, 68-70 and 74-77 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-77 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Simon Sing whose telephone number is (703) 305-3221. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang, can be reached at (703) 305-4895. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9314.

Application/Control Number: 09/220,962

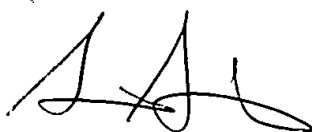
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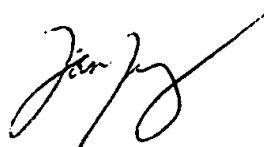
Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4750.

S.S

8/19/2002

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S.S.', with a stylized, cursive-like structure.

FAN TSANG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Fan Tsang', with a stylized, cursive-like structure.